



PLACER COUNTY
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PRESS RELEASE

UPDATE

UPDATE

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Date/Time of Release: **November 11, 2005 / 2 PM**
Date/Time of Occurrence: **November 10, 2005 / 11:30 PM**
Nature of Call: **Private Investigator Surrenders to Authorities**
Location of Call: **Placer County**
Case Number: **SO-05-13627**
Released by: **George Malim, Lieutenant 530-889-7862**

SHERIFF EDWARD N. BONNER RELEASES THE FOLLOWING:

Ronald Scott, the private investigator wanted in connection with a conspiracy and grand theft investigation, turned himself in to authorities at the Placer County Jail at 11:30 PM on Friday night.



Lawrence Samelson

An extensive two-month investigation by Placer County Sheriff's Detectives uncovered a fraudulent legal representation scam run by Scott and an attorney, Lawrence Samelson, 60, of Sacramento. Both men are charged with four counts of conspiracy and nineteen counts of grand theft.

Scott managed a law office by the name of Atwood Legal Center in Auburn. The business was under Samelson's name. Scott would represent himself as an attorney and tell his victims either he or Samelson would represent them. Scott handled most of the cases and, in most instances, Samelson would not even be aware of what cases the office was handling. Samelson would receive payment from Scott for services he never provided.

Victims would receive legal advice from Scott believing they were receiving sound legal advice from an attorney. Scott would hire a low-wage attorney for court appearances and pocket the rest of the retainer. Investigators estimate that victims lost in excess of \$250 thousand.



Ronald Scott

It is believed that Scott has run this type of scam for several years under at least six different fictitious business names including Atwood Legal Services in Penryn, Atwood Legal Center in Auburn, Atwood Law Center in Auburn, Ronald Scott and Associates in Auburn, Litigation Management in Auburn, and Litigation Management LLC in Spokane Valley, Washington. Samelson was arrested Friday afternoon at his Sacramento office and booked at the Placer County Jail on a \$250 thousand warrant. Scott was arrested at the jail and booked. He is being held on \$1 million bail.

Copies of this press release are available on the Placer County Sheriff's Department website at <http://www.placer.ca.gov/sheriff>